

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Weathers announces organic certification cost assistance

COLUMBIA, SC, December 16, 2008 – Hugh Weathers, Commissioner of Agriculture, is pleased to announce that South Carolina is the recipient of a U.S.D.A. National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program award.

The funding will provide organic certification cost assistance to eligible producers or handlers of organic agricultural products up to 75 percent of the organic certification costs, not to exceed \$750. Funding is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Commissioner Weathers said, “This program helps to offset the cost of becoming a certified organic producer. At the same time, consumers can be sure that the foods they purchase from organic certified producers are consistent with national organic standards.”

To be eligible for reimbursement in the National Organic Certification Cost–Share Program, an organic production or handling operation must be located within a qualified state, comply with the USDA National Organic Program regulations for organic production or handling and have received certification or continuation of certification by a USDA-accredited certifying agent.

For more information about the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program, contact Fred Broughton, SC Department of Agriculture, 803-734-2224, fbrough@scda.sc.gov.

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